Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of stabilizing the output signal of a system that detects microbiological growth in a sealed sample container that contains a sample which may contain an unknown microorganism, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a sealed sample container which contains a fluid mixture of a culture broth, the sample, and at least one poising agent for stabilizing ~~the background noise~~ baseline pressure within a headspace above the fluid mixture in the sample container;

(b) monitoring pressure changes within the headspace of the sealed sample container; and

(c) indicating a presence of microbiological growth within the sealed sample container as a function of the change of the headspace pressure.

2. (Original) The method set forth in claim 1 wherein said step (a) comprises the step of providing a pair of coupled poising agents.

3. (Original) The method set forth in claim 2 wherein said pair of coupled poising agents are selected from the group consisting essentially of ferricyanide/ferrocyanide and ferrous/ferric.

4. (Original) The method set forth in claim 3 wherein said pair of coupled poising agents is ferricyanide/ferrocyanide.

5. (Original) The method set forth in claim 4 wherein the concentration of both components of ferricyanide/ferrocyanide is within the range of 0.00005M to 0.001M total concentration.

6. (Original) The method set forth in claim 5 wherein the ferricyanide/ferrocyanide ratio is between 1:4 to 4:1.

7. (Original) The method set forth in claim 2 including the step of providing a second poising agent which is a reversible oxidation-reduction indicator.

8. (Amended) The method set forth in claim 7 including the step of providing a second poising agent selected from the group consisting essentially of methylene blue, toluidine blue, azure I, and ~~gallocyanin~~c gallocyanide.

9. (Original) The method set forth in claim 1 wherein the said step (a) comprises the step of adding at least two reagent mixtures.

10. (Original) The method set forth in claim 9 wherein the said step (a) includes the step of adding at least one reagent mixture of a growth supplement and a second reagent mixture of an antibiotic supplement.

11. (Original) The method set forth in claim 7 wherein the said step (a) comprises the step of adding at least two reagent mixtures.

12. (Original) The method set forth in claim 11 wherein the said step (a) includes the step of adding at least one reagent mixture of a growth supplement and a second reagent mixture of an antibiotic supplement.

Claims 13-32 are withdrawn.